



2024 Commit to Connect and engAGED National Summit to Increase Social Connections

May 14-15, 2024

Commit to Connect and engAGED: The National Resource Center for Engaging Older Adults co-hosted the 2024 National Summit to Increase Social Connections. The summit focused on social connection and technology and had 2,200 registrants and 1,284 unique attendees over two days. Various technology solutions, innovative social connection programs, and tools and resources for organizations were shared during the summit. This resource summary includes timestamps for the recordings, links to resources shared by summit speakers, and links to resources shared by summit attendees in the chat.

Speaker Links: May 14

May 14 Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IFZFo_a3EAA

A Video Message from the Surgeon General of the United States, Dr. Vivek Murthy

Timestamp | 07:45-10:50

- Find the video here: <https://youtu.be/Z3MB5Ko-kHI?si=V4lqfiHpHYk4b2S6>.

Keynote: Future of Technology and Social Engagement

Timestamp | 10:50-1:02:15

This session explored innovations in technology and the impact on social connection and engagement. After brief framing from the Administration for Community Living (ACL), The John A. Hartford Foundation (JAHF) shared national recommendations for promoting social connections. ACL then moderated a panel conversation between speakers on how to leverage technology for social connection of older adults and people with disabilities.

- Download the 2020 National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine: Social Isolation and Loneliness in Older Adults: Opportunities for the Healthcare System report at <https://nap.nationalacademies.org/catalog/25663/social-isolation-and-loneliness-in-older-adults-opportunities-for-the>.

- Visit the 2023 U.S. Surgeon General's Advisory: Our Epidemic of Loneliness and Isolation at <https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/surgeon-general-social-connection-advisory.pdf>.
- View the Shaping a Social Isolation Strategy for Older Adults report, published by NYAM with support from JAHF at <https://www.nyam.org/publications/publication/shaping-social-isolation-strategy-older-adults/>.

Nationwide Network of Champions and Additional Resources from Commit to Connect and engAGED

Timestamp | 1:02:15-1:15:50

Commit to Connect and engAGED highlighted resources and tools to support your organization's social connection work, including the Commit to Connect Nationwide Network of Champions.

- View the Commit to Connect website at www.committotoconnect.org.
- Join the Commit to Connect Nationwide Network of Champions at <https://committotoconnect.org/network-champions/>.
- View the engAGED website at www.engagingolderadults.org.
- Visit the Social Engagement Innovations Hub at www.committotoconnect.org/innovations-hub/.
- Visit <https://www.engagingolderadults.org/consumer-materials> for engAGED consumer-facing technology materials.
- Visit <https://www.engagingolderadults.org/publications> for engAGED technology manuals for organizations.

Program Spotlight: National Telecommunications and Information Administration

Timestamp | 1:15:50-1:44:30

During this program spotlight, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration highlighted the Digital Equity Act and how communities can work with state broadband offices to reach older adults and people with disabilities.

- Visit the InternetForAll.gov website for additional information on federal funding programs and contact information to your State Broadband Office.
- Visit <https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/> to review your State or Territory digital equity plan.
- Send questions to digitalequity@ntia.gov.

Panel: Social Engagement and Assistive Technology

Timestamp | 1:44:30-2:39:30

This panel focused on partnerships between Assistive Technology (AT) and the education sector to increase social engagement. Panelists discussed how AT can help overcome barriers to engagement and help people with disabilities thrive, shared examples of partnerships between AT and education to change culture and increase access to AT, and highlighted ways organizations can access and connect consumers to AT.

- Learn more and connect with Beyond Differences at www.beyonddifferences.org.
- The Wisconsin Department of Public Information Assistive Technology Forward website and Community of Practice (CoP) is available at <https://dpi.wi.gov/sped/educators/consultation/assistive-technology/at-forward>.
- View a link to the U.S. Department of Education Guidance Assistive Technology Devices and Services for Children With Disabilities Under the IDEA - Individuals with Disabilities Education Act at <https://sites.ed.gov/idea/idea-files/at-guidance/>.

Speaker Links: May 15

May 15 Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M6GKUnUss5o>

Program Spotlight: Machine Learning and the Social Health Connector Tool Timestamp | 05:00-1:12:00

This program spotlight highlighted No Wrong Door Virginia's online Social Health Connector tool, which uses machine learning to support Virginia residents' social health needs. The Social Health Connector provides a person-centered, customized social health connection plan to individuals based on a series of self-reflective questions. This customized digital tool is designed with older adults, individuals with disabilities, and caregivers in mind.

- View the Social Health Connector at <https://easyaccess.virginia.gov/about-soheco>.

Panel: Virtual Programming Timestamp | 1:12:00-2:07:45

This panel explored the future of virtual programming and showcased replicable virtual programming models.

- Visit Senior Planet at www.seniorplanet.org.
- Visit the Older Adults Technology Services (OATS) website at www.OATS.org.
- View the Amputee Coalition's Community Connections page at <https://www.amputee-coalition.org/limb-loss-resource-center/community-connections/>.
- The Rural Institute for Inclusive Communities at University of Montana and it's Peer Collective is available at <https://peercollective.ruralinstitute.umt.edu/>.
- View the Social Bridging NC website at <https://socialbridgingnc.org/>.
- View the North Carolina Medical Journal's article on *Impact of Social Isolation on Older Adults in North Carolina* here: <https://ncmedicaljournal.com/article/72996-impact-of-social-isolation-on-older-adults-in-north-carolina>.
- View articles by the Rural Institute: Promoting Inclusive Communities:

- Sharing Your Success: Using Photovoice to Document and Communicate the Impact of Independent Living Services at https://scholarworks.umt.edu/ruralinst_independent_living_community_participation/95/.
- Outcome Measurement Toolkit: A Resource for Centers for Independent Living at https://scholarworks.umt.edu/ruralinst_independent_living_community_participation/91/.
- Creating Educational Opportunities for Independent Living Through Participatory Curriculum Development: A Toolkit for Centers for Independent Living at https://scholarworks.umt.edu/ruralinst_health_wellness/52/.

Links Shared from Attendees

- Learn more about Age-Friendly Health Systems at <https://www.ihf.org/agefriendly>.
- View NYAM's Shaping A Social Isolation Strategy For Older Adults at <https://www.nyam.org/publications/publication/shaping-social-isolation-strategy-older-adults/>.
- Read Social Isolation and Loneliness in Older Adults: Opportunities for the Health Care System at <https://nap.nationalacademies.org/catalog/25663/social-isolation-and-loneliness-in-older-adults-opportunities-for-the>.
- View the U.S. Surgeon General's Advisory on the Healing Effects of Social Connection and Community at <https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/surgeon-general-social-connection-advisory.pdf>.
- Read the NYAM/JAHF Convening Report: Shaping a Social Isolation Strategy for Older Adults - Key Takeaways From a Multidisciplinary Convening at <https://www.johnahartford.org/dissemination-center/view/nyam-convening-report-shaping-a-social-isolation-strategy-for-older-adults-key-takeaways-from-a-multidisciplinary-convening>.
- Learn more about Age-Friendly Health Systems Recognition at <http://www.ihf.org/Engage/Initiatives/Age-Friendly-Health-Systems/Pages/Background.aspx>.
- Visit the Aging and Disability Business Institute website at <https://www.aginganddisabilitybusinessinstitute.org/>.
- View the Foundation for Social Connection's Action Guide for Building Socially Connected Communities at <https://www.social-connection.org/action-guide/>.
- Learn more about CareLink360™ at <https://www.mycarelink360.com>.
- View the Senior Services for South Sound website at <https://www.southsoundseniors.org/>.

- View the Campaign to End Loneliness website at <https://www.campaigntoendloneliness.org/>.
- Learn more about the Council on Aging's Luncheon Companion Program and Tellegacy Program at <https://www.councilonaging.com/inter-generational-dining-1>.
- View the Help Us Grow, Foundation, Inc. website at <https://www.hugreadingprogram.org/>.
- Read the Exploring the Nature and Variation of the Stigma Associated with Loneliness research article at <https://doi.org/10.1177/02654075221087190>.
- Learn more about the Age-Friendly Health Systems Ambulatory Care Continuum at <https://case.edu/nursing/research/research-areas/faculty-research-studies-labs/implementation-and-improvement-science/age-friendly-health-systems-ambulatory-care-continuum>.
- Visit the Healthy Places by Design website at <https://healthyplacesbydesign.org/>.
- Visit the Claris Companion website at <https://clarishealthcare.com/claris-companion/claris-for-family/>.
- Visit the Tellegacy website at <https://tellegacy.org/>.
- Visit the TimeSlips website at <https://www.timeslips.org/>.
- Visit the Social Prescribing USA website at <https://socialprescribingusa.com>.
- Visit the Front Porch website at www.frontporch.net.
- Visit the Visible Network Labs website at <https://visiblenetworklabs.com/insights/partnerme/>.
- Read the Consequential Strangers and Peripheral Ties: The Importance of Unimportant Relationships article at <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1756-2589.2009.00010.x>.
- View the AGE-u-cate Training Institute's Opening Minds through Art webpage at: https://ageucate.com/index.php?main_page=oma.
- Learn more about Oria Mindful: The Omindful Method at <https://o-mindful.com/>.
- Learn more about Digital Equity Act Programs at <https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/funding-programs/digital-equity-act-programs>.
- Learn more about Mental Health Disorder Statistics at <https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/health/wellness-and-prevention/mental-health-disorder-statistics>.
- Visit the Center for Research on Disability's Annual Disability Statistics Collection at <https://www.researchondisability.org/ADSC>.
- Get connected with the National Rehabilitation Information Center and the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research community at <https://naric.com/?q=en/content/news-naric-and-nidilrr-community>.
- Find your state's AT Act Program at <https://at3center.net/state-at-programs/>.